

Sibbison does not dispute that she told O'Connor that the consensus of opinion among officials with authority over the Hudson application was that it would be denied. Although she maintained she does not recall saying there was a meeting on May 17 when this was decided, Sibbison stated that she probably conveyed that this recognition of a consensus was a recent event and states that she thinks it was accurate to say that a preliminary decision to deny had been reached. Nonetheless, there is some evidence that DOI staff did, in fact, meet and reach a "preliminary decision" on May 17, 1995. By May 17, the IGMS staff had reviewed with others the information received after the Feb. 8 meeting on Capitol Hill which indicated that the local community reaction had changed from weak to strengthened opposition. Additionally, according to IGMS Director George Skibine's calendar, he was scheduled to meet at 4 p.m. that day in John Duffy's office regarding a gaming compact for the Wampanoag tribe of Massachusetts, and the meeting was to be attended by BIA Deputy Commissioner Hilda Manuel and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Michael Anderson. When asked about that entry, Skibine conceded that it was possible that Hudson also was discussed during the meeting.<sup>325</sup> Anderson testified that he specifically recalled a meeting on that date which began late in the afternoon, and that staff at the meeting were leaning against granting the Hudson application.

It is unclear what Ickes or Jennifer O'Connor did, if anything, with the information they received from Sibbison about the Hudson application. Jennifer O'Connor's stated reason for obtaining the information from DOI was to provide Ickes with a status update on the casino

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<sup>324</sup>(...continued)  
opposition negated the genuine concern about local community opposition.

<sup>325</sup>Skibine and Duffy had just met with applicant representatives earlier that same day, as discussed below in Section II.F.3.